

DAIRY HIGHLIGHTS

MILK COWS AND MILK PRODUCTION

The number of milk cows on Kentucky farms continued its steady decline during 1998 and totaled 140,000 head, down 8,000 head from the 1997 average. This continues the steady decline in milk cow numbers that began in 1986.

Total milk production in Kentucky was 1.71 million pounds, down 6 percent from 1997. Average production per cow, at 12,214 pounds, dropped slightly from the 1997 average of 12,264. The number of farms with milk cows totaled 3,400, down from 3,600 in 1997.

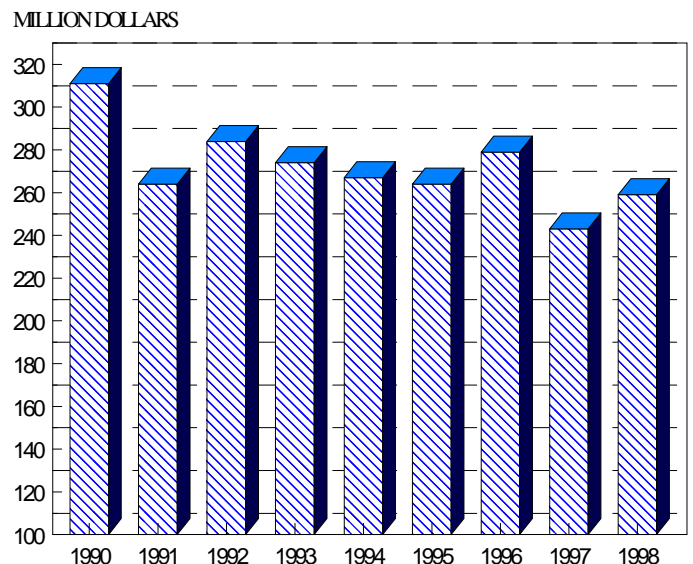
MILK DISPOSITION AND INCOME

Kentucky dairy producers sold 1.67 billion pounds of milk to plants and dealers during 1998 and used 41 million pounds on the farm. Farm use includes milk fed to calves and other livestock, and used for milk, cream and butter. Farm use of milk during 1998 was unchanged from 1997, but milk sold to plants and dealers declined 6 percent from 1997.

Fluid grade milk sold to plants and dealers totaled 1.64 billion pounds, 98 percent of the total milk sold. Manufacturing grade milk sold to plants and dealers totaled 33 million pounds.

The value of milk produced during 1998 came to \$265 million, up 7 percent from 1997. This includes the value of milk used on farms. The average price of all grades sold was \$15.50 per hundredweight, up from \$13.70 per hundredweight during 1997. Cash receipts from marketings totaled \$259 million, up 7 percent from the \$248 million reported in 1997.

KENTUCKY CASH RECEIPTS FROM MILK MARKETED



MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Kentucky plants produced 19.3 million pounds of cottage cheese curd in 1998, up 6 percent from 1997. Creamed cottage cheese production totaled 11.4 million pounds, down 1 percent from the previous year. Lowfat cottage cheese production was 9.1 million pounds during

1998, up 1 percent from 1997. During 1998, 20 Kentucky plants produced one or more dairy products. Totals for most dairy products produced in Kentucky are not published to avoid disclosing individual plant production.